

# **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

**2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Missouri Department of Economic Development**



# **YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM**

## **REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2008**

---

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per calendar year for projects that target Missouri's at-risk youth. Through the 2008 application cycle, YOP allocated a total of \$5,999,991 in tax credits to 49 youth projects throughout the state. Contributions to these projects will fund programming for 45 youth service projects, the construction of one new facility, and the renovation and/or expansion of three facilities. A 2008 project list is enclosed.

Approved 2008 projects have the potential to generate nearly \$12 million in contributions, leveraging approximately \$6 million in private sector dollars. Since its inception in 1997, the YOP program has raised \$84,304,848 in contributions for Missouri's youth programs.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. Among project outcomes, youth will remain in school, obtain high school diplomas or earn GEDs, participate in internships and employment training, learn conflict resolution techniques, and abstain from drugs and alcohol. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

In 1998, the Youth Opportunities Program adopted the following seven program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state.

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Decrease the number of at-risk female teens that become pregnant.**
- 6. Increase the number of youth that have completed alcohol and drug awareness programs and abstain from alcohol and drug use.**
- 7. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

Table 1.1 shows the amount of tax credits redeemed to date and reflects the true cost to the State for the outcomes achieved (Table 1.2). Taxpayers have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus five succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

**Table 1.1: Tax Credit Utilization**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Credits Authorized To Date<sup>1</sup></b>	\$5,388,479	\$5,827,003	\$5,999,991
<b>Credits Issued To Date<sup>2</sup></b>	\$4,467,884	\$3,760,883	\$1,770,186
<b>Credits Redeemed To Date<sup>3</sup></b>	\$3,539,440	\$2,372,394	\$6,731

<sup>1</sup> Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2007.

<sup>2</sup> Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2007 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2007 for Contributions made to projects authorized in each year.

YOP projects that ended and were closed from 2006-2008 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes (Table 1.2). The numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The outcome totals may vary from year to year depending on project time frame and the types of projects that are funded each year. Some numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieve more than one outcome.

**Table 1.2: Outcomes Achieved**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008*</b>
<b># of Jobs Retained and New</b>	342	470	355
<b># Earning High School Diploma or GED</b>	62	6,684	281
<b># Earning School Credits/ Improving GPA</b>	8,198	8,246	3,338
<b># Not Committing Crimes &amp;/or completing Violence Prevention Courses</b>	14,270	7,593	2,646
<b># Abstaining from Drug &amp; Alcohol Use &amp; completing Prevention Programs</b>	7,796	13,151	2,517
<b># Completing Life Skills Training/Mentoring</b>	991	1,227	469
<b># Learning Employment Skills/Job Placement</b>	411	891	735
<b># Increasing Knowledge in Science, Math, Business</b>	90	287	27,192
<b># Achieving Other Outcomes</b>	2,754	2,711	2,997

As shown by the outcome data above, numerous projects are fighting disadvantage and successfully helping youth become more productive adults with YOP tax credits as a tool. The following are examples of three such YOP projects.

Approved for a 2008 project, Lutheran Family & Children's Services (LFCS) utilizes YOP tax credits to implement its CALL and C.H.O.I.C.E.S. programs. Through these two programs, LFCS provides services to more than 500 at-risk youth throughout St. Louis annually.

C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is an enrichment program for girls ages 10-17 who are at-risk for early pregnancies, poor academic achievement and juvenile delinquency. The acronym stands for career development, health and wellness, opportunities, cultural enrichment, educational growth and self-esteem, upon which curriculum and discussion topics are structured. C.H.O.I.C.E.S also focuses on other issues facing adolescents and teenage girls, such as goal setting and decision making processes, leadership development, community service, youth advocacy, peer pressure, and social skills development.



CALL, Children Alive Learning Leadership, was developed to address the specific needs of youth and children with multiple at-risk factors and employs a creative, yet realistic, approach to counter the challenges faced by these youth and their families. The long-range goal is to provide participating youth with positive life skills and values that will enable them to succeed and be productive in a global world.

Staff and volunteers conduct activities, workshops, and projects that focus on: personal growth and development; urban environmentalism and community building; violence prevention, conflict resolution and personal safety; health, nutrition and hygiene; tutoring and intergenerational literacy projects; and bullying prevention.

The YOP project performance targets include:

- 400 of 500 youth enrolled in group mentoring will complete an age-appropriate financial education;
- 400 of 500 youth participating in group mentoring will successfully complete and show an increase in knowledge in at least one character education curricula, such as healthy relationship, conflict resolution, drug/alcohol use prevention, or violence and crime prevention; and
- 75 of 100 at-risk youth in middle or high school, enrolled in the CALL Program, will complete employment skills education.

Faced with overcrowding and inadequate program space, Boys & Girls Club of Springfield was approved for and recently completed a YOP capital campaign for the construction of a new branch facility. The new facility, called the Henderson Unit, is located in the Grant Beach Neighborhood and has provided the space needed to serve an additional 50 youth per day.



BGC of Springfield strives to enhance the quality of life for youth by promoting programs for health and nutrition; social, educational, and vocational skills training; and character development. With special concern for the disadvantaged, the Boys & Girls Club helps Springfield's at-risk youth fully realize their potential.

All BGC programs are designed to foster peer support, enhance life skills, build resiliency, and strengthen leadership skills. Included as part of the YOP project and among the various programs implemented at the new facility are:

- SMART MOVES, a nationally acclaimed, comprehensive prevention program that features engaging, interactive, small-group activities designed to help youth resist alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and premature sexual activity;
- Power Hour: Making Minutes Count, providing an engaging homework assistance and tutoring program that encourages Club members to become self-directed learners;
- Goals for Graduation, which introduces academic goal setting by linking future aspirations with concrete actions today. Action plans, with daily and weekly goals leading to short- and long-term academic gains, are created to encourage high school graduation and foster good post-secondary choices;
- Project Learn, based on research demonstrating that students do better in school when they spend their non-school hours engaged in fun, but academically beneficial, activities. Youth participate in high-yield learning activities daily, which include leisure reading, writing activities, discussions with knowledgeable adults, helping others, homework assistance and tutoring and games that aid cognitive development; and,
- Career Development programs, which enable youth to become knowledgeable of basic educational disciplines, goal setting, career exploration, employment preparation, and technology to achieve success in a career.

UrbanFUTURE, a St. Louis non-profit, has also been successful in utilizing YOP tax credits and making a difference in the lives of Missouri's at-risk youth. With the aid of YOP tax credits, the non-profit has implemented its One on One *INSPIRE* mentoring program at Fanning Middle School in the Tower Grove neighborhood of south St. Louis City. At the heart of the UrbanFUTURE/Fanning partnership is an extended school day, parent leadership, teacher collaboration, and a well trained, community volunteer mentor/tutor corps that focuses on literacy, goal setting and character formation, and job readiness training.



The program uses a team model of mentoring that includes the student's parent or guardian, the community mentor, and the primary teacher. Working together on behalf of the student, the team creates an environment designed to maximize the student's potential for success both in and out of the classroom.

UrbanFUTURE's identified performance goals include:

- 245 youth in the One on One *INSPIRE* program will attend weekly mentoring sessions to set goals to develop personal character and academic skills, and
- 63 youth enrolled in *INSPIRE* will show significant progress in at least one subject area as demonstrated by an increase in at least one letter grade in that subject.

In addition to the *INSPIRE* program, UrbanFUTURE implements project IMPACT, project EXPLORE, and the UrbanFUTURE Academy. Through these programs the agency acts as a "connector" of the family, school, and community, providing mentoring, tutoring and career preparation programs to help disadvantaged youth see and believe in their possibilities.

Lutheran Family & Children's Services, the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield, and UrbanFUTURE are contributing in a very real way to meet the needs of their communities and the at-risk youth within their communities. With YOP, these organizations are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's children.

## Youth Opportunities Program - 2008 Project List

Organization Name	Authorized Amount	Total Credits Issued
(NCADA) National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse	\$160,000.00	\$51,944.00
Aim High St. Louis	\$120,779.00	\$35,671.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$178,177.00	\$102,387.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Greater Kansas City	\$75,000.00	\$962.00
Boys And Girls Club Of Poplar Bluff	\$31,490.00	\$0.00
Boys And Girls Clubs Of Greater Kansas City	\$139,639.00	\$139,639.00
Butterfield Youth Services, Inc.	\$77,701.00	\$16,084.00
Cameron Regional YMCA	\$51,925.00	\$6,000.00
Catholic Charities	\$175,000.00	\$80,400.00
Catholic Family Services	\$225,000.00	\$6,500.00
Child Abuse & Neglect Emergency Shelter, Inc. (Rainbow House)	\$215,050.00	\$6,350.00
Child Advocacy Services DBA The Children's Place	\$25,000.00	\$500.00
Clay County African American, Inc.	\$37,500.00	\$0.00
Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home	\$187,975.00	\$46,555.00
Curators Of The Univ. Of Mo - In It 2 Win Community Coalition	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
DeLaSalle Education Center	\$206,924.00	\$50,384.00
Don Bosco Community Center	\$10,549.00	\$6,500.00
Edgewood Children's Center	\$225,000.00	\$68,019.00
Epworth Children & Family Services	\$239,727.00	\$104,552.00
Family Resource Center	\$222,817.00	\$59,905.00
Family Support Network	\$76,320.00	\$12,011.00
Family Support Services	\$32,590.00	\$5,475.00
German St. Vincent Orphan Association	\$199,713.00	\$9,200.00
Herbert Hoover Boys And Girls Club	\$235,548.00	\$69,214.00
Housing Authority Of St. Louis County	\$150,000.00	\$14,005.00
Intercommunity Education Assoc. DBA Marian Middle School	\$39,400.00	\$21,536.00
Jewish Community Center	\$42,500.00	\$500.00
Junior Achievement Of Mississippi Valley	\$94,766.00	\$73,819.00
K-Life Taney County	\$12,500.00	\$4,637.00
Kids In The Middle, Inc.	\$99,928.00	\$22,608.00
Kingdom House	\$190,000.00	\$138,692.00
Logos School	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Mo	\$196,693.00	\$107,609.00
Missouri Symphony Society	\$222,500.00	\$213,750.00
Nurses For Newborns Foundation	\$30,000.00	\$13,509.00
Operation Breakthrough, Inc.	\$249,264.00	\$69,000.00
Ozarks Technical Community College Foundation	\$186,866.00	\$12,500.00
Phelps County Community Partnership	\$78,000.00	\$0.00
Progressive Youth Connection	\$15,227.00	\$8,250.00
Sherwood Forest Camp Inc	\$213,250.00	\$45,093.00
St. Louis Artworks	\$20,000.00	\$1,000.00
St. Louis Crisis Nursery	\$115,100.00	\$16,069.00
St. Patrick Center	\$149,656.00	\$55,228.00
Synergy Services, Inc.	\$200,000.00	\$9,362.00
The Arc Of The Ozarks	\$100,000.00	\$17,500.00
The Board For Inner City Missions Of The UCC Metro St. Louis	\$100,000.00	\$11,800.00
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$29,249.00	\$10,250.00
The Young Men's Christian Association Of Greater St. Louis	\$58,355.00	\$7,750.00
Whole Kids Outreach, Inc.	\$77,313.00	\$17,467.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,999,991.00</b>	<b>\$1,770,186.00</b>

